

Atty Dkt. No.: LIFE-040  
USSN: 09/988,494AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-3 and 7 are amended, claims 11-32 are cancelled, and claims 33-42 are newly added, as shown below. A complete listing of the claims, including their current status, is provided below.

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1. **(Currently amended)** A reagent composition comprising:  
a tetrazolium dye;  
a phenazine electron transfer agent; and  
~~an effective amount of a Group IIIA compound and/or a flavin stabilizing agent~~ in an amount effective to stabilize said composition.
2. **(Currently amended)** The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said flavin stabilizing agent is flavin adenine dinucleotide (FAD).
3. **(Currently amended)** The composition according to Claim ~~1~~ 34, wherein said Group IIIA ~~stabilizing~~ agent is a borate or boric acid.
4. **(original)** The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said reagent composition comprises an analyte oxidizing signal producing system.
5. **(original)** The composition according to Claim 4, wherein said analyte oxidizing signal producing system comprises an analyte oxidase.
6. **(original)** The composition according to Claim 4, wherein said analyte oxidizing signal producing system comprises an analyte dehydrogenase.
7. **(Currently amended)** The composition according to Claim 4, wherein said phenazine ~~compound-agent~~ is phenazine ethosulfate (PES).

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8. **(original)** The composition according to Claim 4, wherein said analyte oxidizing signal producing system further comprises an enzyme cofactor.

9. **(original)** The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition is a fluid composition.

10. **(original)** The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition is a dry composition.

11-32 **(Cancelled)**

33. **(new)** The method of claim 1, wherein said flavin agent and said tetrazolium dye are present at a molar ratio of about 0.02 to about 17.

34. **(new)** A reagent composition comprising:  
a tetrazolium dye;  
a phenazine electron transfer agent; and  
a Group IIIA compound in an amount effective to stabilize said composition;  
wherein said Group IIIA compound and said tetrazolium dye are present at a molar ratio of about 50 to about 800.

35. **(new)** The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said reagent composition comprises an analyte oxidizing signal producing system.

36. **(new)** The composition according to Claim 4, wherein said analyte oxidizing signal producing system comprises an analyte oxidase.

37. **(new)** The composition according to Claim 4, wherein said analyte oxidizing signal producing system comprises an analyte dehydrogenase.

38. **(new)** The composition according to Claim 4, wherein said phenazine agent is PES.

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39. (new) The composition according to Claim 4, wherein said analyte oxidizing signal producing system further comprises an enzyme cofactor.

40. (new) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition is a fluid composition.

41. (new) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition is a dry composition.

42. (New) A reagent composition comprising:  
a tetrazolium dye;  
a phenazine electron transfer agent; and  
a Group IIIA compound and a flavin stabilizing agent.

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